

CLAIMS

1. A device (10) forming an interface for finding and selecting an option in a hierarchical directory, in particular for searching for and selecting a number in a directory of a mobile telephone (30) on board a vehicle, the device comprising:
 - a data memory (22) containing a plurality of said options ordered as a sequential list;
 - a pointer for selecting one of the options of the list;
 - selector means (24) suitable for incrementing or decrementing the pointer in response to controlled manipulation by the user; and
 - processor means suitable for executing a set of predetermined actions as a function of the options in the data memory;

the device being characterized in that it further comprises:

 - acoustic means (20) suitable for sending to the user an audible message constituting a voiced representation of the option selected by the pointer in response to said pointer being incremented or decremented; and
 - confirmation means (24) that can be manipulated by the user, suitable for reading the option selected by the pointer and transferring said option to the processor means for executing the corresponding action;

and in that said selector means comprise a two-directional rotary knob (14) that can be manipulated (26) by the user, said confirmation means comprising a transient contact that can be actuated by pressing (28) on said rotary knob.
2. The device of claim 1, further comprising display means (12) for displaying the option selected by the pointer.

3. The device of claim 2, in which the display means (12) also display at least one of the preceding and/or following options in the list.

5 4. The device of claim 1, in which:

- said options contain names;
- a telephone number is associated with each option;

and

- the action executed by the processor means is

10 dialing the corresponding telephone number.

5. The device of claim 4, in which:

- said options contain letters of the alphabet; and
- the action executed by the processor means is

15 positioning the pointer on the first name beginning by the selected letter.

6. The device of claim 1, in which:

20 · said options contain command menu titles, or the titles of lower-level menus; and

- the action executed by the processor means is to execute the corresponding command or to select the corresponding lower-level menu.
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